

November 13, 2005

Jeff Koenings, PHD
Director, Department of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RE: Headquarters & Island unit Boot hunting resource

Dear Dr. Koenings,

I want to take the time to let you know what a fabulous resource my eleven (11) year old son Tommy and I have enjoyed this fall. Tommy passed his hunter safety this summer and has fallen in love with the sport of Duck hunting. This follows spending the past 5 years, year around playing organized sports. Being an avid hunter myself since childhood, this fall has been a most remarkable experience. What has truly made it special is the existing wildlife management resource outside Conway, WA and in particular the Island unit. We actually bought a duck boat this year with the idea that we would spend most of our hunting time out in the Skagit flats. What we have found to be true is that the Skagit flats provide a wonderful, but challenging hunting environment. Taking Tommy and his friends out hunting in the flats is challenging and in my opinion, somewhat dangerous.

At the suggestion of John Garrett, manager of the Skagit & Snoqualmie units, I took Tommy over to the island unit for a hunt. We have both fallen in love with the spot and have been back four (4) more times since our 1st hunt there. I am proud to say, Tommy shot his 1st triple last Sunday! Yes, I am a proud father, but more importantly, Tommy is building memories which will stay with him a life time. I hunted my 1st ducks in the Skagit valley when I was nine years old and to see my son experience this level of quality hunting in a public facility restores my hope that all our heritage of hunting and fishing in the great northwest is not lost.

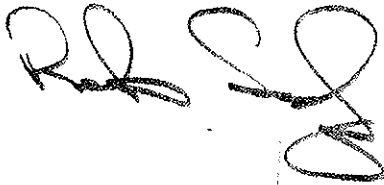
The flooded barley fields surrounded by corn provide the perfect environment to teach Tommy how to set decoys, call, to be patient and work the birds and to recover the game once shot. The 15 shot limit helps to teach a young hunter the importance of selecting the makeable shot rather than "sky blasting". All good lessons for the new and seasoned hunters.

I would also like to add that Tommy shot his 1st pheasant as part of the youth hunt weekend @ headquarters.

We have hunted other areas and will continue to explore the Skagit valley and beyond, but I wanted to take the time to thank you, the department of fish and

wildlife and individuals like John Garrett for providing the recreational hunter, local resident and tax payer with such fabulous hunting. It is most appreciated.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. S. G." or similar, with a stylized, cursive script.